

The Library Assistant:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Association will take place at 7.30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 14th, at the Public Library, Bethnal Green Gardens, Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, E.2, through the kindness of the Borough Librarian, J. Radcliffe, Esq. Mr. Radcliffe will preside; opportunity will be given to inspect the Library; and refreshments will be provided. A short film on "Public Library work," kindly loaned by Grafton & Co., will be shown. The paper will be given by Mr. F. Bussey, of Hackney, on "Developments and tendencies in Current Library Practice."

The Junior Section will meet at 6.30 p.m., when a paper will be given by Mr. F. Richards, of Bethnal Green, on the same topic as the Senior paper.

Buses 8, 39, 42, 106, and tram 59 pass the door.

This meeting should prove one of the most interesting we have held for a long time. The Bethnal Green Library is absolutely the last word in library planning, and should be seen by every librarian and assistant. This is, we believe, the first opportunity given to London librarians of seeing the publicity film which was shown at Cardiff at the last L.A. Conference, and we understand that certain improvements have been made since it was shown there. In view of all this, and perhaps of other attractions which we may not mention here, need we ask for a record attendance? We think not.

ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS.

WEEK-END CONFERENCE

to be held next

WHITSUN

(May 19th, 20th, 21st, 1923)

at

READING.

It is proposed to hold a Week-End Conference at Reading next Whitsun if sufficient support is forthcoming.

The subjects proposed for papers and discussion are: the Evaluation and Selection of Contemporary Books; Adult Education and Public Libraries; New Ideals in Library Administration.

Terms.—The Conference Fee will be 21s. and will include accommodation and board from tea on Saturday to tea on Monday.

Booking Fee.—The accommodation is limited, and members are advised to make application early. A booking fee of 5s. will be charged, which will not be returnable, but will be deducted from the full Conference Fee. The Booking Fee should be sent to Mr. Gurner P. Jones.

Further details of suggested programme may be obtained from

H. A. TWORT, }
W. T. CREED, } *Joint Secretaries,*

Central Public Library,
Fulham, S.W.6.

EDITORIAL.

The Benevolent Fund.—Through the kind offices of our old friend Mr. C. Welch, the Cutlers' Company has again forwarded a cheque for ten guineas for the Benevolent Fund of the Association. We have much pleasure in recording our thanks to the Cutlers' Company for its continued interest in our Association, and to Mr. Welch, who so kindly nominates us to receive it.

The Last Two Meetings.—In January we had the privilege of holding our meeting at the Central Library for Students, by the kind permission of Mr. Albert Mansbridge. There was a good attendance, the bad weather notwithstanding. Mr. W. B. Thorne read a very interesting paper on "The Problem of the Adolescent," which was printed in our last issue. The meeting was made even more pleasant by the refreshments so kindly dispensed by the Misses Dawson and Lampard.

The February meeting was held at Islington under the chairmanship of Mr. W. J. Harris, when Mr. Harry Cross read the paper on "Publicity," which is printed on another page. Here again refreshments were very kindly provided for us.

The Summer School.—With this number we circulate full particulars of the only Summer School of Librarianship to be held this year. The programme is an interesting and comprehensive one, and it is hoped that our readers will support the School. It should commend itself to our colleagues in the provinces who may care to spend a part of their holiday in the great metropolis.

By the kindness of the authorities, members of the A.A.L. or the L.A. may join the School at the reduced fee of a guinea which applies to the students at the School of Librarianship.

Library Progress.—The Open-Access system has been put into operation at the Greenwich Central Library.

Ipswich is to have a fine new public library at a cost of £29,000. Of this, the Carnegie Trustees will provide £22,000, and Alderman Paul £7,000.

School of Librarianship Entrance Exhibition.—An Entrance Exhibition in the School of Librarianship of the value of £40 a year and tenable, subject to satisfactory progress, for two years, may be awarded in June, 1923. Candidates must have passed the Matriculation Examination of a University in Great Britain or Ireland, and the successful candidate will be required to take a full-time course leading to the Diploma of the School of Librarianship. The Diploma may be taken by a graduate after a one-year's course of study, by an undergraduate after a two-years' course.

In selecting the successful candidate preference will be given, other things being equal, to one who has already had practical experience in an approved library. Candidates must send to the Secretary of the College, on or before May 30th, a written application on the form supplied for the purpose, stating their educational qualifications and particulars of their library service.

Candidates will be interviewed by representatives of the Committee of the School of Librarianship. They may be submitted to an examination, both oral and written, to test either their general or special knowledge. Further particulars from Walter W. Seton, M.A., D.Lit., F.S.A., Secretary, University College, London.

The Paris Excursion.—About thirty people have entered their names as members of the L.A. and A.A.L. Excursion to Paris, and an interesting and enjoyable time is anticipated. If any reader still wishes to join the party, he or she should send the necessary seven guineas to the Honorary Treasurer (Mr. H. A. Sharp, Central Library, Croydon) by return.

The Book-Selector.—Although we have no personal interest in the venture, we take this opportunity of congratulating Messrs. Grafton on the first number of "The Book Selector." We believe it is the first serious attempt in this country to put into operation a system of co-operative cataloguing not identical with, but achieving similar results to those foreshadowed by Mr. Jast in his address to our Association at its annual meeting in 1912 (see L.A., July, 1912). We shall watch the experiment with interest and only hope that the profession will give it the support it deserves. The only criticisms we will permit ourselves here are (1) that there should be some indication of the essential books for smaller libraries; (2) that there should be slight alterations to the setting of the entries which are too solid for our liking, and (3) that there should be some more specific directions as to the method of using the entries for book selection and for the public catalogues.

Next Council Meeting.—The next meeting of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind, on Wednesday, 21st March, at 7 p.m.

The Yorkshire Division.—It is a pleasure to place on

record our appreciation of the services rendered to the Association by Messrs. J. A. Butterfield and W. Robertshaw, who have recently retired from the positions of President and Honorary Secretary respectively. The Yorkshire Division is one of the healthy evidences of the virility of our Association, and not a little of this satisfactory state of affairs is attributable to the officers who serve it so whole-heartedly. At the same time we should like to welcome to the Presidential Chair of the Division, Mr. Horace Goulden, of Huddersfield, and to the Honorary Secretaryship Mr. Norman Treliving. The last-mentioned has previously served the division as its Honorary Secretary and the Association in general as its President.

Our Small-type Pages.—Some readers may think that our small-type pages are unimportant, merely formal records of meetings held, etc. This is not the case, and the only reason for continuing them is that we are enabled to give readers a good deal more matter than would be otherwise the case. We mention this because some of this month's small-type pages contain very important and interesting matter, evidencing in no uncertain way the increasing dignity and importance of our Association in the eyes of the profession. We refer more especially to the report of the fine meeting held in Manchester by the North-Western Division, and in Leeds by the Yorkshire Division.

A New Diplomate.—We congratulate Miss G. Rees, of Fulham, on having gained the full Diploma of the Library Association. Her thesis, which was a detailed record of Children's Work, is a work of lasting value, and we understand that the Library Association has recommended that it be published.

"Sequels."—Has your library obtained its "List of English and American Sequel Stories"? If not, see that it gets a copy before it is too late. Its price is six shillings, and all profits go to the Benevolent Fund of the Association.

PUBLICITY. POLICY AND PRACTICE.*

By HARRY CROSS, F.L.A., *Croydon Public Libraries.*

With a Library Association Committee engaged in discovering and developing publicity methods, and that excellent little work of Mr. Briscoe's on "Library Advertising," one is rather diffident about entering the publicity field. But I feel that towards local rather than national work must we look for success.

I think I may reasonably claim that to be my excuse for embarking on this venture. Despite the existence of a national

* Read at Islington, 21st February, 1923.

committee and a national campaign, the whole business of making a real success of the effort to bring home to all and sundry the need and value of public libraries, will inevitably be a failure unless that national work is ably seconded locally by every librarian and his assistants. It is a melancholy but true fact that 15 per cent. of the population is about all we can lay claim to. This low percentage is due to a variety of causes, the greatest of which appears to me to be that a large proportion of the public read little except the daily press and cheap literature of a kind that is not provided by public money. However, time may help us to cultivate that ill-nourished flower.

"Publicity" is simply doing what every shopkeeper does when he wants to attain a greater degree of success in his business—advertise his wares. He tells you what he has for sale, of what great value it is to you, and how cheap it is. I think you will agree that some measure of publicity work is eminently desirable. Ways and means may differ, but on the general fact of the need for advertising, I think we are at one.

The Library Association Publicity Committee, as no doubt you are aware from its numerous activities and from the notes in the "Record," conducts a campaign on behalf of libraries throughout the kingdom. The country is divided into roughly defined areas, and each area is worked as vigorously as possible by the member of the Publicity Committee responsible for it. Through the press, by lecturing, or by any means occurring to him, he endeavours to educate opinion and to reduce that terrible majority who do not avail themselves, or who do not know of the public libraries. Also, he has to fight opponents and reply as far as possible to misrepresentation and mis-statement.

Further, I have no doubt that you are familiar with the two leaflets, "Education and Libraries" and "Public Libraries and the People," which express the opinions of eminent writers, educationists, and public men. They cost but £1 per 1,000, and if well-circulated should accomplish much. That is a step in the right direction. I would like to suggest a companion to these leaflets; still better work may be accomplished by getting eminent people *not* associated with literature and education to express their opinions. The leaflets present opinions by men one would naturally expect to support public libraries. Then there is the publicity film, which, to say the least, opens the way to many extensions.

In addition, posters have been designed to appeal to the varied tastes that one inevitably meets with. These publications accomplish two purposes. They indicate the value and uses of a library to the public, and fire the imagination of the librarian.

But one must not suppose that since the Library Association is doing a lot of work in the publicity field, that there is no need to worry, and that all we have to do is to sit tight and with a pleasant smile await the millennium. No association could do the work unaided and unsupported. And it is with the supporting work of local publicity that I am really concerned this evening—the work that we ourselves can do. For the national work *must* be very ably seconded by the local work if any degree of success is to be attained.

Whatever methods one decides to use, the locality must be the determining factor with regard to their nature. Before embarking on a campaign of publicity it is essential that you assure yourself that the methods you intend to adopt are suitable and acceptable to your public. You cannot afford to alienate opinion through the use of clumsy and impolitic methods. Newspaper articles and paragraphs first occur to one as being an excellent means of getting at the public. Topics of interest can be written up and attention drawn to the resources of the libraries. It is one of the surest ways of reaching those who are apathetic towards our work. Then there is the local newspaper man. Frequently he requires assistance, and makes use of the local reference library. You can cultivate him, and one day he may develop into a library orchid of surpassing beauty.

Should circumstances permit, it may be possible to arrange for local societies, ratepayers' associations, chambers of commerce, etc., to hold a meeting at the library, and make it the occasion for bringing to their notice the resources of the libraries. Or maybe they run courses of lectures to which assistance can be given by sending along books which with little or no formality might be borrowed there and then. Co-operation with these societies is full of possibilities. Some of their members may be induced to give lectures and generally to take an interest in the provision of profitable, interesting and re-creative reading through the public library. As a rule, these clubs or societies have a meeting place in which they will generally agree to display posters giving notes about library resources for the help and guidance of their members.

Of the unorganised field represented by what is known as the "man in the street" we must now take notice. This is the direction in which our greatest efforts are needed. He forms the vast majority of the non-users of our libraries. A recent count of the number of charges in the trays of the various libraries of a certain borough revealed the fact that 16,000 vols. were in the hands of the public at that moment. The population of the place is 190,000, and that means the vast majority of the population were not using the lending libraries. The public are invariably shy and loathe to attempt to obtain what

is theirs for the asking, and I really believe that a lot of them feel some sort of qualms about their title to enter the library and avail themselves of its contents. To make the way easier, for those who use the new rooms, you can display small notices telling of the resources of the library; how to get information on any questions that crop up in the papers; how, by joining the lending libraries, they can pursue still farther any trains of thought started by reading the newspapers and magazines. One rather subtle method is to inform them that they should test the truth of what they are told in the press and where they may do that. For the news-room, I think that the subtle appeal is by far the best, for those whom we wish to capture are led on gradually; a too obtrusive campaign will drive them away altogether.

Many libraries publish bulletins, handbooks or guides to their resources, and here we have another means of reaching the public. Why not a larger edition than usual, and a house to house delivery of bulletins accompanied by the necessary forms for joining the libraries? It has been tried in a number of places, and the experiment was decidedly worth consideration.

There are various notices served on the householder by the municipality, and one might seriously consider getting a small advertisement on the rate demand notes. Something more than a mere indication of the existence of the libraries is required. These demand notes are usually read from every possible angle in order to discover some miscalculation in the amount required, and the sudden realisation that there was a branch of the municipal services that he had not used, though he had paid for it, might induce the recipient to become a borrower.

In various other municipal services, too, one can find numerous ways of indicating our existence and mission to the public. Plates in tramcars, and directing notices on lamp standards immediately occur to one. Then every recreation ground has a board containing the bye-laws and regulations—why not utilise a small portion of that to tell the public where they can obtain literature dealing with the various sports?

One often sees that ubiquitous person thrusting political broadsides into everybody's hands or surreptitiously planting his leaflets in all sorts of like places. You can follow his methods to a degree, and leave pamphlets or leaflets in hotels, cafés or railway stations, or get local cafés to leave an annual report or bulletin about the place, or provide them with a list of directories and quick reference works available at the local reference library. Last year an American librarian went to a conference by aeroplane, and distributed publicity leaflets from

the sky. Possibly this year we shall see the Chairman of the Publicity Committee riding the sky and disseminating information from on high.

Two recent happenings call for some notice here, as no doubt they will have to be watched and possibly taken advantage of. I refer to the sudden interest in Wireless Broadcasting and the suggested provision of gramophones in libraries. The first certainly attracts a number of people in search of information on the construction of receiving sets; the second has not advanced very far beyond the suggestion stage, so that we cannot as yet state its value as a means of attracting a portion of the public. Possibilities there are most certainly, but there are also very grave dangers which may well lead one to lose sight of the true intention of public libraries in the thirst for new experiments.

I now pass on to interior publicity, by which I mean the creation of an atmosphere that will cause the borrower to appreciate and respect the library. You have still to provide the means of keeping a public. Neither the books-behind-a-barbed-wire-fence appearance of an indicator library, nor for that matter any lending or reference library with innumerable restrictions and formalities can present a really enticing appearance to a would-be user.

Freedom—the absence of everything but the least possible number of restrictive regulations, is one of the finest publicity agents you can have. As soon as a reputation is gained for unstinted help and guidance, courtesy and quick and efficient service, so soon will you be nearer the goal of a universally used public library, instead of an institution which it is true to say is used only by a small proportion of the people who own it. Uninteresting and uninviting buildings will gain no converts; they will get the condemnation they deserve. Just as a bright and well-arranged shop attracts and keeps a public, so will a tastefully decorated library retain its place in the life of the community. Though you *may* have the books, if they are housed in prison-like surroundings they will not accomplish their purpose half so well as if they were available in brighter and happier circumstances.

One method that has proved extremely useful as a means of helping borrowers and at the same time gaining a reputation for helpful service, is to have a kind of "shopwalker," particularly on busy evenings. His duty is simply to wander round among the readers who will invariably take advantage of his presence and request assistance. If judiciously done help may be offered unasked, and soon the intention and meaning of the shop walker's presence becomes known, and his services are frequently in demand.

Pictorial notices taking the form of guides to books or authors is a field that can be exploited, and from very cheap material one can make really useful and attractive additions to the appearance of a department. All sorts of subjects can be dealt with in this way. It doesn't call for a great deal of ingenuity to be able to discover a subject in the world's happenings that can be utilised for this purpose. This subject of guides leads us on to shelf and tier guides. You must admit some of these statements of bald facts can be improved upon in a number of places. For instance French Revolution 944.04 does not help you a great deal. Why not a guide on the shelf about the height and breadth of a book and giving not only that information but stating the standard histories, the whereabouts of related subjects and other things.

The provision of plants, photographs and prints all add to the general attractiveness of the building, and then perhaps you will succeed in showing the public that the public library is not only an institution that can supply the means of instruction, recreation and amusement, but also that it is a place that it is a pleasure to visit.

But all this publicity work presupposes one thing—the existence of a really representative and efficiently organised collection of the world's literature. If you advertise your library you must be sure you have a library that is worthy of advertising.

THE DIVISIONS. NORTH WESTERN DIVISION.

One of the most successful meetings in the history of the Division was held in Manchester on Wednesday, February 7th.

During the afternoon visits were paid to the Commercial and Technical Libraries; and the visitors also had the pleasure of examining the administrative machinery of the city's splendid public library system.

No words can exaggerate the kindness of Mr. L. Stanley Jast (Chief Librarian) and his staff. Mr. Jast personally explained the features of the Technical Library and answered questions addressed to him: afterwards conducting the visitors through the other departments of the Reference Library. The members of the staff, too, in their respective departments, did their utmost to give the visitors a delightful and instructive time—and succeeded admirably.

The evening meeting was held in the Crumpsall District Library and was largely attended, over one hundred being present, representing libraries in Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Blackburn, Altrincham, Bury, Birkenhead, Bootle, Preston, Lancaster, Salford, etc.

Mr. L. STANLEY JAST presided, and at the outset very kindly welcomed the Division, and then proceeded with his address on "The Differing Work of Commercial and Technical Libraries and their Future Development."

Mr. Jast said that both Commercial and Technical Libraries were special departments and were a monopoly of large libraries: in small libraries they were unnecessary. There were, of course, differences to be observed in Commercial Libraries of, say, Manchester, Liverpool,

Glasgow, Bristol. They had no model to follow, and the formation of each had been looked at from different angles. The formation of the Commercial Library in Manchester had been looked at from the narrower sense and not from the broader: it did not contain, for example, books on Economics, Parliamentary papers, or any technical books. Leeds was a combination of Commercial and Technical books. Mr. Jast doubted the wisdom of this: the accommodation only admitting of a selection of each, and in a selection there was no value. The contents of a Commercial Library depended upon individual interpretation, especially as regards the benefit of the doubt. The Manchester Commercial Library being viewed from the narrow angle was "dead commercial" and nothing else: all remaining works being placed in the Reference Library. Differentiation between Commercial and Technical Libraries was made naturally by classification. Discretion was the only method of deciding whether a book should be placed in one or the other, when the claim was equal. Difficulties depended on whether storage was possible in the same building. Overlapping between the two was more difficult to deal with when one came to periodicals: the only solution in certain cases was to duplicate. Trade catalogues could be considered desirable in both Commercial and Technical Libraries, and duplication in these cases was easier because they were presented. Another difficulty, or difficulty of degree, was the very large amount of material in a Commercial Library which was of temporary value. Two systems were adopted: to catalogue pamphlets, etc., individually, when they were worth it; and when not worth it, they were not catalogued item by item, but shelved by Dewey number and a general entry given in the Card Catalogue. In Technical Libraries pamphlet literature was, more or less, of permanent value. It was impossible to speak of future development because there had been no real development along the lines already laid down. In conclusion, Mr. Jast pointed out that these libraries should be regarded as a side show: we did not stand for these things, we must not limit the Library ideal, which was educational and cultural work.

Mr. J. W. IDLE (Librarian of the Crumpsall District Library) then read a paper on "The Special Work among Young People in Manchester." With regard to the Young People's Room, tickets were issued through the district schools, and each ticket admitted to the room twice weekly. There were two Sessions nightly: from 5.30 to 6.45 and from 7 to 8.15. They were compelled to rely upon the teachers for the regular attendance of young people, as each reader is registered by name and school, and a record of attendance and conduct is made. Reports on these are made at intervals, and are being sent to the Head Teachers with comments: the Reports are returned, stating the action taken. The room contained open shelves: it was necessary that the young people should see the books they wanted. There was also a picture bulletin board and a picture filling cabinet. Much depended upon the personality of the Children's Librarian. The Librarian was a power behind the book. Short stories were told in the room several times each week. Young people were not compelled to join the circle: anyone who wished to continue reading could do so. All methods in the Young People's Room should be in mutual relation to the adult department: children should be trained to a love of reading and to a knowledge of classic and standard literature. Children so trained, when they begin to use the adult department will do so with profit and pleasure.

Mr. E. C. WICKENS followed with an address on "Certain Professional Problems and their Relation to Assistants," and pointed out that the solution of professional Problems would most certainly tend towards an increased professional status. This was a desirable end in itself, but contained a serious danger to many assistants. It was unquestionably true that an increased professional status would attract men and women of a higher education; and the Assistant of to-day who did not qualify or prepare for the future would remain a Junior with very little chance of promotion. We owed a duty to our colleagues, and should see

that increased educational facilities were provided. The Council of the North Western Division were determined that every effort should be made to provide these facilities.

On the motion of Mr. H. Hamer (President of the North Western Division), seconded by Mr. R. Cochran (Walton and Fazakerley Library, Liverpool), it was unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to Mr. Jast and his staff for their kindness during the day, and to Mr. Jast, Mr. Idle and Mr. Wickens for their contributions to the evening meeting.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH—SOCIAL SECTION.

A very pleasant evening was spent on the 12th January, when a party of members and friends (numbering 42 in all) visited the Playhouse, Liverpool, to see Thackeray's play "The Rose and the Ring." This is the first time that members have enjoyed a "show" together, and it is hoped that further arrangements will prove just as successful.

The second theatre evening was a great success, when a party of 42 members and friends again visited the Playhouse, Liverpool, on Friday, 16th February, and enjoyed Barrie's play "The Professor's Love Story." The next theatre evening will be Monday, 19th March.

The whist drive took place at Messrs. Roberts's café, Liverpool, on Friday, 19th January. There was an atmosphere of friendliness and gaiety amongst the party of 84 present, from the commencement of the evening, and the proceedings were enlivened from time to time by the announcement of special incidental prizes. The supper interval was especially bright, and the evening was brought to a close by the distribution of handsome prizes to the six fortunate recipients.

Owing to the great success of the whist drive held on 19th January, and the many requests for another, the second WHIST DRIVE will be held on 20th April next, at Messrs. Roberts's café, Liverpool.

Application for tickets for the theatre parties and the whist drive should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Social Section, Reference Library, Liverpool.

About fifty members attended a meeting at the Toxteth Branch Library, Liverpool, on Friday, February 23rd. The evening was devoted to an interesting series of ten-minute papers on open-access, the speakers basing their remarks on their actual experience of the system in operation.

Owing to the arduous nature of his duties as President of the national body and Hon. Secretary of the North-Western Division, Mr. E. C. Wickens felt reluctantly obliged to resign his position as Chairman of the Liverpool and District Branch. In view of the remarkable enthusiasm Mr. Wickens invariably displayed as Chairman, his resignation was accepted with sincere regret, but a worthy successor was found in Mr. Robert Cochran, the energetic Librarian of the Walton and Fazakerley Branch Library.

A more detailed report of this meeting will, it is hoped, appear in our next issue.

J. T. EVANS.

NORTH EAST DIVISION.

It is pleasing to note that a movement has been started to form a Junior Section of the North East Division. Some enthusiastic assistants have taken the matter up seriously, and it is hoped that their efforts will be successful. The Committee at their last meeting considered the movement very sympathetically, and decided that the officers of the Division should help in every possible way. They are well aware of the diffidence of younger members in speaking or reading papers at meetings where so many are seniors, or have had experience in debate; and are agreed that the training gained in the more intimate atmosphere of a small gathering would soon react favourably on the general meetings.

It should be understood that a Junior Section is entirely in the control of the members who form it; and that there is no interference from senior members or Divisional officers, unless the help or advice of the latter is asked for. A preliminary meeting of assistants interested in the formation of the Section will be held on the same day as the next meeting of the Division. Further information will be gladly supplied to anyone by the Hon. Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The next meeting of the North East Division will be held at the Gateshead Public Library on Wednesday, March 14th. The arrangements are expected to be as follows:—

6 p.m. Preliminary meeting of the Junior Section.

6.30 p.m. Committee Meeting.

7 p.m. Address by Professor John Lyle Morison, M.A., D.Litt.
This will be followed by a conversation and refreshments.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

About twenty members and friends gathered at Eastbourne on January 12th for the usual quarterly meeting. The Chief Librarian, Mr. J. H. Hardcastle, F.L.A., took the chair, and having cordially welcomed the members called upon Miss E. Gerard (Sub-Librarian, Worthing) to give her lantern lecture on "Early Sussex Maps." Beginning with a short sketch of the history of map-making, Miss Gerard then threw on the screen examples of Sussex maps from the earliest known to the most recent, enabling those present to realise in the fullest manner how greatly the Sussex coast line has altered since mediæval times. At the close Miss Gerard was the recipient of a hearty vote of thanks, as was also Mr. Hardcastle for his hospitality in providing tea before the meeting and refreshments after it, the latter being much appreciated by those members who had to return to Brighton, Hove and Worthing.

It is hoped to hold the next meeting at the Hove Public Library in April, of which full particulars will be announced later.

E. MALE, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE DIVISION.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting was held in Leeds, on January 17th, when more than fifty members heard a stimulating address by Alderman T. C. Abbott, J.P. (Chairman, Manchester Libraries Committee). The meeting was presided over by Mr. Councillor F. Bentley, Chairman, Leeds Libraries Committee.

The Chairman said that his brief experience of library work had shown him that library committees, in spite of criticisms, were always striving to do their best for the library movement. In Leeds during the past few years they had endeavoured to guide the public in their choice of reading, and had tried to impress upon the Education Committee that the library movement was doing a great educational work.

Alderman Abbott kindly presented certificates to the ten members of the Division who were successful in the May, 1922, examinations.

He commenced his address by quoting the following extract from a circular issued by the North-Western Division: "The time has come for a very definite move forward. The future is going to make greater demands upon our efficiency than the past has made. The public library is slowly coming to the front as a great national educational institution, but it can only take its proper position in the economy of the nation with the earnest and enthusiastic assistance of all members of the profession." The only addition he would make was that it had been coming at a much greater speed than had been recognised, and his fear was that if the

profession was not fully equipped to take up the burden of duties which appeared to claim their fulfilment, he would fear for the future of library work. He was at dead enmity with chief librarians just now. These officials should realise the occasion, and take action. From all sections of human society the demand for help in acquiring knowledge was being made. With the generation feeling the effect of modern education, with the negation of sex distinction, it was not surprising that the populations of our towns were crying out for assistance in attaining a higher and fuller result than merely getting a living for the sake of getting a living.

The first and bounden duty of the librarian was to select and give to the users of the library real literature, wholesome, good in form and style, and suitable to the requirements of the neighbourhood. Hundreds of books introduced into our libraries were ephemeral—they did not live as permanent possessions enriching and stimulating the mind for all time. All good books—books of interest, books containing truths in many forms—did not necessarily become literature. Literature must have some permanent quality; it must have vitality. Literature consisted of a whole body of classics in the true sense of the word. A poem appealed to the emotions, while a treatise appealed only to the intellect. It was the power to appeal to the emotions which gave a book permanent interest and, consequently, a permanent literary quality. It was not the botanist who awakened in us a true sense of the beauty of earth and life. It was Shakespeare with his

“Daffodils that come before the
swallow dares,”

and Wordsworth and Keats.

We had so little choice of purity and wholesomeness in literature in the books presented to us to-day. He referred more particularly to the bulk of books which libraries provided for the popular taste in the shape of fiction. If the assistants who were to become the librarians of the future were well grounded in literature, he thought we should have very little to fear for the future of libraries. Alderman Abbott felt strongly that library staffs did not get sufficiently in touch with the readers. Librarians must by every possible means help readers to make the best use of the library, and must act as a sort of live wire between the reader and the best books. Every good book on the library shelf that remained unopened and unasked for was a challenge to the staff, and a mute appeal to bring it to notice and get it into the hands of somebody.

After tea, which was kindly provided by Councillor Bentley, members re-assembled for the Annual General Meeting. The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were read and approved. The Sixteenth Annual Report was submitted by the retiring Honorary Secretary (Mr. W. Robertshaw) and passed unanimously. The Honorary Treasurer presented the financial statement, which was also approved.

The election of officers and committee for the year 1923 was announced as follows:—

President: Mr. H. Goulden, Deputy Librarian, Huddersfield.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. J. A. Butterfield, Commercial Librarian, Bradford; Mr. A. Finney, Deputy Librarian, York; Mr. F. Haigh, Sub-Librarian, Halifax.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. N. Treliiving, Chief Cataloguer, Leeds.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W. Procter, Branch Librarian, Armley, Leeds.

Committee: Miss E. F. Wragg (Sheffield); Miss M. V. Walker (Huddersfield); Miss M. M. Hummerston (Leeds); Miss E. Bruce (Huddersfield); Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds); Mr. W. Robertshaw (Bradford); Mr. R. W. Parsons (Bradford); Mr. E. Osborne (Sheffield); Mr. H. J. M. Maltby (Bradford); Mr. A. Denton (Bradford); Mr. S. M. Bryant (York); Mr. E. Allison (Hull).

With the passing of two resolutions relating to the exclusion of candidates from the L.A. Examination rooms without their admission cards, and to the inconveniently early dates of entry for the examinations, the

business on the agenda was transacted, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a social and dance. Before members dispersed, light refreshments were thoughtfully and kindly provided by the members of the Leeds Libraries staff.

W. R.

CITY OF BRADFORD.

The Libraries, Art Gallery and Museums Committee invite applications for the appointment of Librarian-in-Charge of the Manningham Branch Library (Volumes 13,500, Borrowers 2,500, Annual Issues 129,000), commencing salary £240 per annum, with bonus (at present £33 16s. 0d.) in addition. Subject to efficient service the person appointed may be advanced to a maximum of £300 per annum by increments not exceeding £15 per annum.

Candidates must possess Library Association certificates for Classification and Cataloguing, and have had public library experience.

Applications in candidates' own handwriting, stating professional qualifications, experience and age, accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials and endorsed "Librarian-in-Charge," to be sent to me not later than Monday, March 12th, 1923.

N. L. FLEMING, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Bradford.

THE ALL-DAY LONDON CONFERENCE.

We have held back this number of *The Library Assistant* in order to include a brief report of the all-day Conference, announced in our last issue, to consider whether the Library Association should apply for a hearing before the Royal Commission on London Government or attempt to secure the appointment of a Government committee to enquire into the library service of the country as a whole, and in the afternoon to consider the question of forming a London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association.

There was a good attendance of librarians and assistants from London and the adjoining counties, and the discussion, although often wide of the mark and certainly indicative of the little most of us really knew of the intentions of the Commission towards libraries, was interesting, indeed, we may say, entertaining.

At the morning session Mr. A. Cawthorne was elected to the chair, and quite a long time was spent in discussing procedure, some desiring that the question of forming the Branch should be dealt with first, the agenda notwithstanding. This being ruled out of order the meeting proceeded to discuss the first question, on which there was the greatest possible difference of opinion.

Several people attempted to explain the circumstances that had led to the calling of the meeting, but it was left to our Honorary Secretary to point out that the A.A.L. was the prime mover in suggesting that some such steps should be taken, as we were now to discuss.

Mr. Thorne asked to be allowed to start the discussion on right lines by stating two facts—(1) that there was a Royal Commission now sitting to deal with the future of London Government, and (2)

that already a written report had been submitted by a librarian, dealing with the London library service. We might assume that the result of the report of the Royal Commission would be some change in the present form of London Government, and that such change would affect the control of the London library service.

There was then some discussion as to who had submitted the alleged report and to whom, and what had happened to it. In this connexion, Mr. Pacy said he understood the gentleman concerned to say that he had conveyed his views on libraries to certain members of the Commission, but we did not know whether those views had ever reached the Commission or not. He (Mr. Pacy) would wait until we were invited to submit our views before doing anything. It was important any recommendation affecting London libraries should *not* be settled by a London Government Commission, but by the responsible ministry, the Board of Education. He could not conceive that the Board would allow, without opposition, any local commission to affect the administration of libraries. He knew too that the Board would consider the question of widening the powers of library authorities, but it did not follow that they would take into consideration any change in the constitution of those authorities.

Mr. Herbert Jones followed with a speech on the magnitude of the question before us, and at the end of it moved a resolution to the effect that before any application be made for such a committee of enquiry, the library authorities concerned be informed of the intention of this meeting, with a request for their observations, if any, on such proposals. The Resolution to be sent to the Library Association, and such Resolution to be brought up at the next meeting of the proposed branch of the Association. Mr. Jones was insistent that no steps should be taken until the library authorities had been notified and given an opportunity of expressing their opinion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aldred.

Mr. Sayers said he understood that the business of this meeting was to decide whether we should ask the Library Association Council to formulate a policy for London, so that if we were asked, we could say that we had a policy in hand. He proposed an amendment to the effect that it be a request from this meeting to the Library Association Council to formulate some policy for the London and other libraries which might be used if and when it was called for. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Peplow (Deptford).

Mr. Stewart proposed a further amendment to the effect that in view of the deliberations of the Royal Commission on London Government, a committee be appointed to consider the organization of the London Library Service, that the committee report to this conference on Wednesday, 11th April, and that the committee consist of Messrs. Harris, Peplow, Rowlatt and Walker, representing London, and of Messrs. Bolton, Roebuck, Piper and Sayers

as representing Greater London. This second amendment was seconded by Mr. Parker. A vote was taken and the amendment was lost, the voting being 19 in favour, 24 against.

Mr. Sayers' amendment, including Mr. Jones' original motion, was then put and carried, the voting being 41 in favour and 1 against.

At the afternoon session, Mr. Herbert Jones was elected to the chair, and Mr. Burt read the minutes of the meeting held in December at the National Library for the Blind to consider the question of founding a London Branch of the Library Association.

There was a good deal of futile discussion on the advantages and disadvantages likely to accrue from the formation of such a Branch, but the chief bone of contention, and one that is still not cleared up to our satisfaction, was as to whether membership was to be restricted to people who were members of the Library Association, or whether anyone could join on payment of a nominal subscription of four or five shillings per annum.

Several graceful tributes by the way were paid to the activity, enthusiasm and organization of our Association, although the opinion seemed to prevail in some minds that we were hostile to the formation of the Branch.

It was quite clear from the chairman's remarks that the London librarians were almost unanimous in demanding the formation of a Branch which could give proper consideration to such questions as might arise affecting the administration of the London municipal libraries. He even went so far as to say that if the branch was not formed, an independent organization would be brought into being. He would move that the proposed branch be called the London and Home Counties Library Association, and that application be made to the Library Association for the necessary certificate. This was carried unanimously, and a temporary committee was elected, consisting of Miss Frost, Messrs. Philip, Roebuck, Bolton, Piper, Rowlatt, Wright, Greenhough and Quinn, with Mr. Thorne as temporary Honorary Secretary. This committee gives representation to London and to each of the counties concerned.

We apologise for the brevity of this report, and for the omission of the names of many who contributed to the discussion, but our space is limited.—
ED.

NEW MEMBERS.

Richard Kirtland (Shoreditch); P. R. Jerrard (Bethnal Green); Norman Wilding (London Library).

N.W. DIVISION: G. F. Foster (Bolton); ASSOCIATE: Miss E. Wickers (Wigan).

S. COAST DIVISION: Miss M. Campbell (Brighton); ASSOCIATE: Miss D. Coxon (Winchester).

Subscriptions to the General Association should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Public Library, Lavender Hill, S.W.11. Divisional members should remit to their divisional treasurer.